

July 28, 2008

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DEPT. OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

AUG 13 2008

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

State of Michigan
Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Bureau of Construction Codes
P.O. Box 30704
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: DOCKET #08-1-1
PROPOSED INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING #08-1-1
INTO A HOME RULE CITY

ATT: Christine A Holmes, Commission Specialist

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Thank you for the information concerning the impending hearing on this matter.

As residents of the Hickory Grove Subdivision, we wish to join our voices with the multitude in opposition to the obvious land grab by the Village of Sebewaing.

Hickory Grove Subdivision was developed in 1970, and at that time the Village of Sebewaing wanted NOTHING WHATSOEVER to do with ANYTHING!!! The developer paid for EVERYTHING, including the water, road, and sewer.

The Village of Sebewaing required the sewers to be installed lower than the Village sewer connection, (ABSOLUTELY STUPID??) requiring a pumping station, also paid for by the developer. The Village of Sebewaing subsequently accepted the Hickory Grove Subdivision Sanitary Sewer System, and agreed to maintain and operate it as a part of the Village of Sebewaing Sanitary Sewer System.

Eventually, homes were built, the tax base has increased substantially, and there has been nothing but animosity between the Village of Sebewaing and the residents of Hickory Grove Subdivision. For years we paid into a "maintenance fund," ER "general fund," but when the Hickory Grove Sewers required maintenance, the residents were charged unfairly, because our maintenance fund had been absorbed by the Village of Sebewaing general fund!!!!!!

Recently, all thirty seven homeowners of Hickory Grove Subdivision lost a lawsuit, and appeal to the Michigan State Appeals Court, against the Village of Sebewaing, because the Village has not upheld their agreement, and are forcing us to pay for their mistake. No big surprise, but make no mistake, WE ARE UNITED!

Most of the residents of Hickory Grove Subdivision are on a fixed income, and at a time when costs are increasing for EVERYTHING, it is NOT NECESSARY for our taxes to increase because you allow them to force us into the Village of Sebewaing. SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WANT OUR TAX BASE.

Everything is about money, and we don't have any more, they have killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.

In view of the fact that the developer, and eventually the homeowners of Hickory Grove Subdivision have paid for everything,, it is not fair for us to be required to pay for the development of the farm land that the Village of Sebewaing proposes to force into their City.

A few years back, the land west of Hickory Grove Subdivision was made part of the Village of Sebewaing, but the developer found the costs of taxes prohibitive, and the land is currently a bean field, last year it was corn, and the year before beets, etc.

A sign listing the proposed lots of the subdivision has been there for years, and no roads, sewers or water mains are installed. Another subdivision, located in the Village of Sebewaing, has two or three homes in it, one resident is a relative of the developer. No one can afford to build in the Village of Sebewaing. No one wants to build in the Village of Sebewaing, and no one will build in the "City of Sebewaing," they simply can't afford it, that's all there is to it.

Sebewaing is primarily an agricultural community, there are no jobs that pay a living wage, and homes are not selling, especially for the State Equalized Value. Sebewaing has been in a Depression for years. Too

many people are struggling to feed their children, buy gas to get to work, if they're fortunate enough to have a job, and your decision to allow this devastation in our community will affect everyone in Sebewaing Township with substantially higher taxes, as well as the "City of Sebewaing."
The Sebewaing Village Council is hiding the true facts of this landgrab, and the future costs to everyone. There are absolutely no benefits, there has been no trust in the past, WE SIMPLY CAN'T TRUST THEM!!!

It is absolutely ridiculous to even think of thinking of the Village becoming a Home Rule City.....It's already a home rule city, with rules and signs prohibiting everything. At the last Council meeting one of the council members complained because township residents bring their recycling to the truck that comes into the Village once a month, and is run by volunteers. Obviously they are unaware of the nationwide call to recycle, and are concerned only about their control of their own little political world. Now the Sebewaing Village Council is discussing prohibiting trucks from the streets.....

One only needs to visit Sebewaing, most of the downtown businesses have closed their doors. Take a look at the Marina, with no boats, you can shoot a cannon down main street.....every other home is for sale or foreclosed.

The Sebewaing Fire Department, Library, and Ambulance are all under the control of Sebewaing Township, and those services will have to be renegotiated, at the actual operating costs. All of the Sebewaing Township offices are located in the Village of Sebewaing. Alienating Sebewaing Township will end "Big Daddy" helping with the costs of building and maintaining roads and sidewalks, while the Village continues their uncontrolled spending.

And. You guessed it, WE will have to pay for it!

One of the first things the new "City" will have to do is reimburse the residents of Hickory Grove Subdivision for their sewers and water, so that all residents of their new "City" start off on a level playing field. Of course, there will be absolutely no record of our maintenance fund.

Potential problems with Hickory Grove Subdivision becoming part of the Village of Sebewaing, include the fact that we live in a woods, and burn our leaves in the fall. The Village of Sebewaing requires residents to put leaves at the curb, in a neat little pile. This is a big deal, and if we're required to do that, it will start World War Four.

Our school bus service will be interrupted.

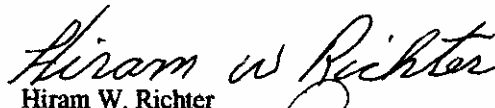
I can go on and on.

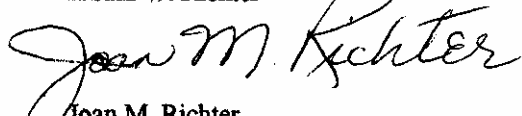
This is all about Money, Greed, and Political Power....The very first City election that we get to vote in, the entire Mayor and City Council will be out of office, but that will be too late. They have puppets waiting in the wings.

You do not need to sit in Lansing in your air conditioned office, and make this decision that will devastate so many lives. We are all very much aware that you have never denied a land grab request.

If we wanted to live in a city, we would have had our home built in a city, just not Sebewaing! This is how wars are instigated.

Sincerely,


Hiram W. Richter


Joan M. Richter
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48759